



A Donate Life Organization



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

Senate Bill 467: Genetic Testing Requirements

Support of an Amendment to Exclude Organ and Tissue Donation Testing

Gift of Life Michigan supports the amendment to exclude human organ and tissue donation testing from the requirements of Senate Bill 467.

- Genetic testing performed by Gift of Life Michigan is used solely to properly match donated organs and tissues with potential recipients.

All testing performed by Gift of Life Michigan is necessary to ensure the success of the transplant. The purpose of this testing is to save lives through organ and tissue donation.

- Gift of Life Michigan is routinely inspected by federal organizations to ensure that strict confidentiality procedures are being followed.

Gift of Life Michigan adheres to existing state and federal laws and regulations. Our organization answers to rigorous confidentiality procedures established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services both through the Division of Transplantation and the Office of Civil Rights (HIPPA-Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). For example, the family of the donor cannot learn any of the results of the testing performed for matching organs and tissues. Gift of Life Michigan is regularly inspected by federal organizations to ensure that we are fulfilling our obligation to protect the privacy of both organ and tissue donors and recipients as part of our certification process.

- Additional consent procedures may hinder or delay the process and prevent donation from taking place.

Donation requires prompt response and action to ensure that the organs and tissues remain viable for transplant. At a time when a family has suffered a loss, we wish to keep the consent process simple and easy to understand.

With over 3,000 Michigan residents waiting for a life-saving organ, we ask that testing for organ and tissue donation be excluded from Senate Bill 467, to facilitate placement of organs in a timely manner.

Gift of Life Michigan appreciates the Committee's consideration of this amendment.

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